

Dear Mr. Powell and Commissioners,

I already hear enough propaganda from the George Bush Jr. regime. As a U.S. citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that effect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming from the mainstream networks and cable channels, especially Fox.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans do not know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their legal obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us and not just the blather that has been issuing from George Bush Jr.'s mouth.

Sincerely,

c currey  
2171 ne schuyler  
portland, OR 972124755